

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

THE ESTATE OF CASEY TESKOSKI, by its Special
Administrator John Teskoski,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No.: 19 CV 95

WOOD COUNTY,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES THE PLAINTIFF, the Estate of Casey Teskoski by John Teskoski, by its attorneys, Gingras, Cates & Wachs by Paul A. Kinne and Bremer & Trollop Law Offices, S.C., by Christine Bremer Muggli, and hereby states the following as its Complaint in the above-referenced matter.

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS

1. This is a civil action under 42 U.S.C. sec. 1983, the Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, including but not limited to the Substantive Due Process Clause, brought to redress the defendant's deliberate indifference to a serious medical condition, namely suicide, at the Wood County Jail, that resulted in the death by suicide of Casey Teskoski.

PARTIES

2. At all times relevant to this action, Casey Teskoski was an adult resident of the State of Wisconsin. She died on December 29, 2017. Accordingly, her estate, by Special Administrator John Teskoski, is the proper plaintiff.

3. Wood County is a municipal corporation organized pursuant to the laws of the State of Wisconsin. Wood County operates the Wood County Jail.

JURISDICTION and VENUE

4. This court has jurisdiction over plaintiff's claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. sec. 1983, the Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and 28 U.S.C. secs. 1331 and 1343.

5. Venue in the Western District of Wisconsin pursuant to 28 U.S.C. sec. 1391 is proper insofar as the defendant is in this district, and the events giving rise to the claim took place within this district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. Wood County operates the Wood County Jail and is responsible for setting policies for the treatment of detainees.

7. Wood County is required to establish and implement policies and procedures designed to identify serious medical conditions from which detainees suffer, and it is required to establish and implement policies and procedures for the care and observation of detainees.

8. On or about December 8, 2017, Casey Teskoski began a period of incarceration at the Wood County Jail.

9. Officials at the Wood County Jail knew that Casey Teskoski was suicidal.

10. In spite of this knowledge, Wood County personnel failed to monitor Casey Teskoski for suicide risk.

11. On or about December 22, 2017, Casey Teskoski hanged herself at the Wood County Jail.

12. Casey Teskoski died on December 29, 2017, as a result of injuries sustained from hanging on December 22.

13. Wood County, as a matter of policy, failed to provide staff with adequate training in suicide risk recognition and prevention.

14. Wood County, as a matter of policy, failed to provide sufficient staff to monitor prisoners known to be suicidal.

15. Prior to Casey Teskoski's death, Wood County experienced multiple suicide attempts, at least some of which were successful.

16. In response to these suicide acts, Wood County made no changes to policies designed to prevent future suicides, despite the knowledge that its policies were inadequate.

**CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST WOOD COUNTY
DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE TO A SERIOUS MEDICAL NEED
OFFICIAL CAPACITY CLAIM**

17. Plaintiff states the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

18. Wood County's knowing failure to have policies, procedures and / or protocols by which suicide risk could be identified and by which suicidal prisoners could be monitored for suicide prevention violated Casey Teskoski's rights as set forth in the Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, as such failure demonstrates a deliberate indifference to a known serious medical condition.

19. Wood County's conduct alleged in the previous paragraph caused Casey Teskoski severe and permanent physical, emotional, psychological and economic injuries, including death.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff demands a trial by jury and the following relief:

1. Judgment in an amount sufficient to compensate the plaintiff for her injuries and losses;
2. Equitable relief designed to prevent future violations of the law;
3. Pre- and post-judgment interest;
4. An award of attorneys' fees and costs; and
5. Any other relief the Court deems just to award.

Dated this 5th day of February, 2019.

GINGRAS CATES & WACHS LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff

s/ Paul A. Kinne

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